



Steve Pangelinan
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

DON'T LOSE YOUR WATER TO THIEVES

DATE: Thursday, June 04, 2015

As California's drought drags on, water thieves are starting to surface and steal water from both public and private properties. The Milpitas Police Department suggests residents and business owners secure their water spigots and other water sources on their property. There are several commercial water locks available at your local hardware store. The use of these locks may deter a would-be thief from stealing your water and affecting your wallet with higher utility bills.

Recently on the west side of Milpitas, thieves were seen carrying away gallons of water from a shopping center at night. This theft would have gone undetected if it was not for the large utility bill received by the property owner and witnesses. In other cases around the state, trucks in need of water for dust control and construction tap fire hydrants without using meters that charge them, which impacts revenue generation for local municipalities. Some California cities have seen an increase in water theft for the purpose of illegal marijuana cultivation. Water theft will impact you one way or another during our current drought; so please report suspicious activity near spigots, fire hydrants, water towers, and other water sources to your local law enforcement agency.

Anyone with any information regarding the theft of water within the City of Milpitas is encouraged to call the Milpitas Police Department at (408) 586-2400. Information can be given anonymously by calling the Crime Tip Hotline at (408) 586-2500 or via the Milpitas Police Department website at:
http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov/government/police/crime_tip.asp

Press Release By: Lieutenant Raj Maharaj

Date/Time: June 4, 2015, 4:00 P.M.